

it would need to achieve in order to account for the anomalous sex-ratio observed. Of the 170 moths to emerge from the cocoons two-thirds were male; i.e. about 57 females were inexplicably "missing" from the sample of 456 cocoons. A parasite attacking only female cocoons would produce this result at a level of around 12% (i.e. parasitising 25% of the otherwise viable host cocoons), and one attacking females and males in a ratio of 5:1 (below the lowest estimate for the bias reported here for *M. obnoxius*) would still require only an 18% level of representation to account for the results. For a colonial host likely to have specific parasites these figures are well within the range one might reasonably expect.

Reference

Larsen, T. B. (1974). A possibly Abnormal Sex-ratio in *Zygaena carniolica* Scopoli (Lep.: Zygaenidae). *Ent. Rec.*, **86**: 165-167.

New Forest Mercury Vapour Light Records for 1974

By L. W. SIGGS

Sungate, Football Green, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hants.

1974 was another poor year; indeed, the worst since the Robinson trap was started in 1962. The months of April, July and October were the lowest recorded and only March was above average. Nights without low temperature, rain or strong wind were exceptional.

	Nights	Specimens		Species
		Total	Average	Average
March	17	1,186	70	8
April	30	1,732	58	9
May	31	669	22	12
June	29	2,986	103	32
July	31	4,410	142	43
August	31	3,818	123	37
September	30	1,698	57	15
October	31	709	23	6
November	20	439	22	5

The total number of species recorded was 316.

In contrast to last year, only one species — *Cerastis rubricosa* D & S. — put up a record. 211 specimens came to the trap, the previous highest being 187 in 1965.

There were three additions to the Minstead list: —

Agrotis trux lunigera Steph.

Discoloxia blomeri Curt. (The first Hampshire record.)

Eupithecia satyrata Hübn. (determined by Mr. D. S. Fletcher).

The following species, which are occasional here, were recorded: — *Agrotis clavis* Hufn., *Tethea* or D. & S., *Moma alpium* Osbeck, *Elaphria venustula* Hübn., *Euxoa tritici* L., *Archanara sparganii* Esp., *Diloba caeruleocephala* L., *Idaea*

muricata Hufn., *Scopula marginepunctata* Goetz, *Chesias legatella* D. & S., *Ectropis crepuscularia* D. & S.

A late emergence of *Lacanobia contigua* D. & S. on 7th August is perhaps worth recording.

Migrants

In such a poor year generally an influx of migrants could not be expected, and, as the figures show, did not appear. *Autographa gamma* L. (47), *Peridroma saucia* Hübn. (*porphyrea* sensu Edelsten) (1), *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. (13), *Lithosia quadra* L. (1), *Rhodometra sacraria* L. (1), *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. (10), *Plutella xylostella* L. (*maculipennis* Curt.) (3).

Polymorphism

<i>Biston betularia</i> L.	<i>Idaea (Sterrha) aversata</i> L.
typical 86 (90%)	<i>remutata</i> 56 (76%)
<i>carbonaria</i> 4 (4%)	<i>aversata</i> 18 (24%)
<i>insularia</i> 6 (6%)	

Allophyes oxyacanthae L., typical 3, ab. *capucina* Esp. 2.

Tholera decimalis Poda (*popularis* F.), typical 24, a pale ab. 1.

Alcis repandata L., typical 48, ab. *consonaria* Hübn. 2.

Eilema deplana Esp., typical 1, vars. 3.

Notes and Observations

LYCAENA PHLAEAS L. AB. SCHMIDTII GERH. IN SURREY, 1974. — This marvellous insect was spotted whilst avidly feeding from a clump of marjoram, but immediately on the sighting it took to the wing. Knowing of the usual habit of this species of returning to its favourite perches, I patiently awaited its further appearance and surely enough was rewarded, as it repeatedly came back, looking most odd in flight with its silvery white wings. I managed to take a really fine series of colour slides of the curious insect in natural positions and including one particularly fine shot of its underside when it held its wings tightly together. An interesting point to note here is that the insect was found in an adjoining Surrey field where in 1973 I photographed *L. phlaes* ab. *radiata*. It seems that there must surely be an aberrant strain here and I look forward to 1975 and what other extreme aberration this *L. phlaes* colony may throw. — K. J. WILLMOTT, 34 Daybrook Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3DH.

ZEUZERA PYRINA L. IN YORKSHIRE. — On the evening of 21st August 1974 at about 8.30 p.m., in the company of my father and other members of my family, including my 12-year-old son who first made the observation, I saw a newly hatched Leopard Moth on the wall of The Feather Hotel at Pocklington, near York. Reference to South confirmed it as a male. — MICHAEL REEVES, 25 Ashmount Drive, Rochdale, Lancs. [This species may now be more common in Yorkshire than formerly. Porritt (*List of Yorkshire Lepidoptera* (1904), 21) has "This